

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01851 091324Z

43 41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /056 W

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R 091226Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9715

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1851

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, VI

SUBJ: US NAVAL FACILITY ON ANEGADA

1. EMBASSY HAS FORTUITOUSLY LEARNED, THROUGH PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE IN THE ISLAND SUN, ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, THAT US NAVY APPARENTLY OPERATES "DRONE LAUNCHING FACILITY" ON ANEGADA IN BVI.

ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, GOVERNOR OF BVI HAS NOTED THAT USG HAS EXERCISED OPTION FOR RENEWAL OF LEASE COVERING PARCEL OF LAND ON ANEGADA FOR PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 1975.

2. I FIND IT ASTONISHING THAT NOT ONLY WAS NO MENTION EVER MADE OF THIS FACILITY WHEN I WAS BRIEFED ON DOD BEFORE COMING HERE BUT ALSO THAT WE SHOULD HAVE HAD TO LEARN ABOUT LEASE RENEWAL IN FASHION DESCRIBED ABOVE. I FULLY APPRECIATE FACT THAT, BVI BEING A DEPENDENT TERRITORY, EMBASSY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT IN SAME WAY AS FOR BARBADOS, GRENADA AND WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES. NEVERTHELESS, BVI IS WITHIN OUR CONSULAR JURISDICTION AND WE DO MAKE AN EFFORT TO FOLLOW SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS THERE, SINCE EMBASSY LONDON OBVIOUSLY CANNOT DO SO ADEQUATELY, GIVEN ITS DISTANCE FROM BVI. IF WE ARE TO DO OUR JOB PROPERLY, WE MUST BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN AREA UNDER JURISDICTION WHICH INVOLVE OTHER USG AGENCIES.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE ADVISED IN DETAIL OF (1)

ANEGADA LEASE AND USE MADE BY US NAVY OF DRONE LAUNCHING
FACILITY AND (2) OF EXISTENCE WITHIN EASTERN CARIBBEAN OF
ANY MILITARY, AIR OR NAVAL FACILITIES OTHER THAN THOSE ON
ANEGADA, BARBADOS, AND ANTIGUA. ALSO, THAT ANEGADA FACILITY
BE ADDED TO LIST OF TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN MY FORTHCOMING
WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS (SEE BTN 1836).
BRITTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE LEASES, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE01851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750351-0274
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751067/aaaachod.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US NAVAL FACILITY ON ANEGADA
TAGS: MARR, VI, THE ISLAND SUN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006